

CLAIMS

1. A vertebral drill bit for forming a pathway through a pedicle into a vertebral body, comprising:

a cutting shank having a first end and a second end;

an attachment head at the first end of the cutting shank;

a tip at the second end of the cutting shank;

a point at which the diameter of the cutting shank at the second end begins to get smaller to form the tip;

a flute formed in the cutting shank and extending from the first end to the tip;

an edge of the flute from the first end to proximate the point being sharp for cutting; and

edges of the flute from the point to the tip being rounded.

2. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the attachment head includes a socket formed therein.

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3. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first end of the cutting shank is flared outwardly to a larger diameter with a corresponding outward flare in the flute and the edge of the flute from the first end to proximate the point.

4. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 3 wherein the attachment head includes a portion terminating the first end and having a diameter substantially the same as the larger diameter of the flared first end.

5. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 4 wherein the attachment head includes a socket formed therein.

6. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 4 wherein the attachment head further includes an attachment shank extending from the portion, the attachment shank divided by a groove.

7. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 4 wherein the attachment head further includes an attachment shank extending from the portion, the attachment shank divided by an enlargement forming a groove adjacent the portion.

8. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 1 further including an inserter for coupling the drill bit to a drill.

9. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 8 wherein the inserter includes a chuck end and a receiver end.

10. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 8 wherein the inserter includes a receiver received within a securing sleeve.

11. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 10 wherein the receiver includes an end coupled to the attachment head preventing relative rotation between the drill bit and the receiver and the securing sleeve including means for gripping the attachment head.

~~12.~~ A vertebral drill bit for forming a pathway through a pedicle into a vertebral body, comprising:

a cutting shank having a first end and a second end;

an attachment head including a portion terminating the first end of the cutting shank and having an enlarged diameter;

a tip at the second end of the cutting shank;

a point at which the diameter of the cutting shank at the second end begins to get smaller to form the tip;

a flute formed in the cutting shank and extending from the first end to the tip;

an edge of the flute from the first end to proximate the point being sharp for cutting;

edges of the flute from the point to the tip being rounded; and

an inserter engaging the attachment head for coupling the drill bit to a drill.

13. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 12 wherein the attachment head includes a socket formed therein and the inserter includes a chuck end receivable by a chuck of a drill and a receiver end inserted into the socket.

14. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 12 wherein the attachment head further includes an attachment shank extending from the portion, the attachment shank divided by an enlargement forming a groove adjacent the portion.

15. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 14 wherein the inserter includes a receiver received within a securing sleeve.

16. A vertebral drill bit as claimed in claim 15 wherein the receiver includes an end coupled to the attachment head preventing relative rotation between the drill bit and the receiver and the securing sleeve including an inwardly directed flange at one end inserted into the groove for gripping the attachment head.

